

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 50, 59, 69, 91, 100. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (pages i - ii).

*Sub C1*

50. (Amended) A method for producing spray-dried particles having improved stability of a protein comprising:

(a) combining a protein, a phospholipid having saturated acyl chains, a co-solvent, said co-solvent including an aqueous solvent and an organic solvent, and, optionally, a buffer salt, to form a mixture having a solute concentration of less than 1 weight/volume percent; and

(b) spray-drying said mixture to produce spray-dried particles having improved stability of the protein;

wherein the particles consist essentially of the protein, the phospholipid and, optionally, the buffer salt, and wherein the phospholipid is present in the particles in an amount of at least about 10 weight percent.

*B2*

59. (Amended) The method of Claim 50 wherein the solute concentration in said mixture is at least 0.1 weight/volume %.

*Sub 2*

69. (Amended) A method for producing spray-dried particles having improved stability of a peptide comprising:

(a) combining a peptide, a phospholipid having saturated acyl chains, a co-solvent, said co-solvent including an aqueous solvent and an organic solvent, and, optionally, a buffer salt, to form a mixture having a solute concentration of less than 1 weight/volume percent; and

(b) spray-drying said mixture to produce spray-dried particles having improved stability of the peptide;

wherein the particles consist essentially of the peptide, the phospholipid and, optionally, the buffer salt, and wherein the phospholipid is present in the particles in an amount of at least about 10 weight percent.

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concl'd.*  
*Cut C*  
91. (Amended) A method for producing spray-dried particles having improved stability of a protein comprising:

(a) combining a protein, a phospholipid having saturated acyl chains, an organic solvent, and, optionally, a buffer salt, to form a mixture having a solute concentration of less than 1 weight/volume percent; and  
(b) spray-drying said mixture to produce spray-dried particles having improved stability of the protein;

wherein the particles consist essentially of the protein, the phospholipid and, optionally, the buffer salt, and wherein the phospholipid is present in the particles in an amount of at least about 10 weight percent.

*B4*  
100. (Amended) The method of Claim 91 wherein the solute concentration in said mixture is at least 0.1 weight/volume %.

Please cancel Claims 70-90 and 109-127.

Please add Claims 128-131 as follows

*Cut C*  
*65*  
128. (New) A method for producing spray-dried particles having improved stability of a protein comprising:  
(a) combining a protein, a phospholipid having saturated acyl chains, a buffer salt and a co-solvent, said co-solvent including an aqueous solvent and an organic solvent, to form a mixture; and

(b) spray-drying said mixture to produce spray-dried particles having improved stability of the protein;

wherein the particles consist essentially of the protein, the phospholipid and the buffer salt and wherein the phospholipid is present in the particles in an amount of at least about 10 weight percent.

129. (New) A method for producing spray-dried particles having improved stability of a peptide comprising:

(a) combining a peptide, a phospholipid having saturated acyl chains, a buffer salt and a co-solvent, said co-solvent including an aqueous solvent and an organic solvent, to form a mixture; and  
(b) spray-drying said mixture to produce spray-dried particles having improved stability of the peptide;

wherein the particles consist essentially of the peptide, the phospholipid and the buffer salt and wherein the phospholipid is present in the particles in an amount of at least about 10 weight percent.

130. (New) A method for producing spray-dried particles having improved stability of a protein comprising:

(a) combining a protein, a phospholipid having saturated acyl chains, a buffer salt and an organic solvent, to form a mixture; and  
(b) spray-drying said mixture to produce spray-dried particles having improved stability of the protein;

wherein the particles consist essentially of the protein, the phospholipid and the buffer salt and wherein the phospholipid is present in the particles in an amount of at least about 10 weight percent.

131. (New) A method for producing spray-dried particles having improved stability of a peptide comprising:

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Considered*

*CX  
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- (a) combining a peptide, a phospholipid having saturated acyl chains, a buffer salt and an organic solvent, to form a mixture; and
- (b) spray-drying said mixture to produce spray-dried particles having improved stability of the peptide;

wherein the particles consist essentially of the peptide, the phospholipid and the buffer salt and wherein the phospholipid is present in the particles in an amount of at least about 10 weight percent.

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#### REMARKS

Claims 50, 69 and 91 have been amended and now recite phospholipids having saturated acyl chains. As amended, present Claims 50, 69 and 91 also specify that the mixture has a solute concentration of less than about 1 weight/volume percent and that it consists essentially of a protein (or peptide), a phospholipid and, optionally, a buffer salt. Dependent Claims 59 and 100, as presently amended, specify that the solute concentration is at least 0.1 weight/volume %. In addition, present Claims 50, 69 and 91 recite particles that consist essentially of the protein (or peptide), the phospholipid and, optionally, the buffer salt.

New Claims 128-131 have been added and are directed to combining a protein or a peptide, a phospholipid having saturated acyl chains, a buffer salt and a co-solvent or an organic solvent, and spray-drying the resulting mixture to produce spray-dried particles that consist essentially of the protein, or peptide, the phospholipid and the buffer salt; the phospholipid is present in the particles in an amount of at least about 10 weight percent..

Support for the amendments and newly presented claims is found at page 10, line 13 to 19 and in Examples 1 and 2. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 70-79 and 109-127 have been cancelled.

The remainder of this Reply is set forth under appropriate subheadings for the convenience of the Examiner.